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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Harcombe, Anthony Thomas

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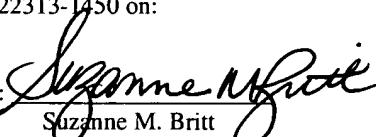
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment prior to verification of the filing fee and issuance of the first Office action on the merits in the above application.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.